

**State Board of Education
December 16, 2008
Item I-4**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Montpelier, Vermont**

TEAM: Independent & Federal Programs

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education acknowledge that the kindergarten program at The Greater Burlington YMCA in Burlington, VT closed on July 1, 2008, and is no longer an approved independent kindergarten under State Board Rule 2270?

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the State Board of Education acknowledges that the kindergarten program at The Greater Burlington YMCA in Burlington, VT closed on July 1, 2008, and is no longer an approved independent kindergarten under State Board Rule 2270.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Title 16 V.S.A. §166(b)
State Board Rule: 2270

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. The Greater Burlington YMCA was last granted approval by the State Board of Education on May 30, 2008 through June 30, 2010, to provide a kindergarten program.
2. On October 2, 2008, the Vermont Department of Education was notified by the Child & Youth Service Vice President of The Greater Burlington YMCA that the kindergarten program closed on July 1, 2008.

COST IMPLICATIONS: None

STAFF AVAILABLE:

Pat Pallas Gray
Independent School Consultant
828-5414

Kerry Garber, Director
Independent & Federal Programs
828-3150

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Montpelier, Vermont**

TEAM: Independent & Federal Programs

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education acknowledge that Meadows Educational Center at the Brattleboro Retreat consolidated two of its programs in August of 2008 resulting in the establishment of the BRIDGES Program?

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the State Board of Education acknowledges that Meadows Educational Center at the Brattleboro Retreat consolidated two of its programs in August of 2008 resulting in the establishment of the BRIDGES Program. The Meadows Educational Center is State Board of Education approved through June 30, 2010.

Approval is subject to the condition that the school immediately report to the Department of Education whenever any changes occur in enrollment, programs, policies, facilities, financial capacity, staffing, or administration, during the approval period.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Title 16 V.S.A. § 166(b)
State Board Rule: 2228 et. .seq.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. Meadows Educational Center is an approved, year-round independent school that provides general and special education services, to students ages 6-21 in grades K-12, in the disability categories of Emotional Disabilities, Learning Impairment, Specific Learning Disabilities, Other Health Impairment, and Developmental Disabilities. The Center is located on the grounds of the Brattleboro Retreat in Brattleboro, VT. Meadows Educational Center is State Board of Education approved through June 30, 2010.
2. Meadows Educational Center in August of 2008, after seeking input from district-wide special education directors/coordinators and the Health Care & Rehabilitation Services of Windsor and Windham Counties, merged the Partial Hospitalization and the Tower Programs into a new program called BRIDGES—Brattleboro Retreat’s Individually Developed Guided Educational Services. This tri-leveled, non-residential program will provide academics, clinical supports, vocational opportunities, virtual & transitional living experiences, and community-based education programming. The ultimate goal of the BRIDGES Program is to incrementally transition students back to their sending school to an inclusive educational setting.
3. Meadows Educational Center’s elementary educators and secondary subject area teachers will provide the academic instruction to the students in the BRIDGES Program. Three of these ten teachers are licensed in special education. The instructional staff will be supported by a principal, a reading specialist, two social workers, seven mental health workers, as well

as paraeducators. Medical oversight for the day students will continue on an outpatient basis through the Anna Marsh Behavioral Care Clinic (AMBCC).

COST IMPLICATIONS: None

STAFF AVAILABLE:

Pat Pallas Gray
Independent School Consultant
828-5414

Kerry Garber, Director
Independent & Federal Programs
828-3150